

IN THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A stent delivery system comprising:

a guide wire;

a delivery catheter having an inner tubular member with a proximal end and a distal end and a guide wire lumen extending from the proximal end to the distal end for receiving the guide wire, the tubular member including a region for mounting a compressed stent thereon with a tip assembly attached to the mounting region including a tip component having a tapered shape which facilitates the insertion and delivery of the delivery catheter in a patient's body vessel and an outer tubular member having a restraining sheath overlying a portion of said inner tubular member to maintain the stent in a compressed position, the outer tubular member and restraining sheath being adapted for axial movement with respect to said inner tubular member, the tip component being made from a polymeric material compounded with a radiopaque substance and a wire coil molded into the polymeric material; and

a housing assembly having a pull-back handle slidably mounted on a base, the inner tubular member having a proximal end attached to the base and the outer tubular member having a proximal end attached to the pull-back handle, wherein movement of the pull-back handle proximally retracts the restraining sheath proximally from the compressed stent on the inner tubular member while the inner tubular member remains stationary.

18. (Previously Presented) The stent delivery system of claim 17, further including means for evacuating air from the delivery catheter.

19. (Previously Presented) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein the tip component is made from poly-ether-block amide.

20. (Previously Presented) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein the tip component is made from poly-ether-block amide which contains BaSO<sub>4</sub>.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The stent delivery system of claim [21] 17, wherein the ~~wire coil is molded into the polymeric material is urethane material.~~

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The stent delivery system of claim [17] 18, wherein the means for evacuating air from the delivery catheter includes a syringe which can be placed in fluid engagement with the guide wire lumen for introducing a fluid into the delivery catheter.

25. (Previously Presented) The stent delivery system of claim 18 wherein an annular space is formed between the outer tubular member and the inner tubular member and the delivery catheter further comprising an opening in the inner tubular member which is in fluid communication with the annular space and the guide wire lumen, wherein fluid may be introduced into the guide wire lumen through the opening in the inner tubular member so that the fluid is introduced into annular space and eventually flows through the distal end of the outer tubular member and a distal opening formed on the tip assembly.

26. (Previously Presented) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein the tip component is made from PEBAX.

27. (Previously Presented) The stent delivery system of claim 17, wherein the tip component is made from PEBAX which contains BaSO<sub>4</sub>.

28. (Canceled)

29 (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The stent delivery system of claim [29] 17, wherein the proximal end of the inner tubular member is adapted to receive a syringe for introducing a fluid into the delivery catheter.

31. (Currently Amended) The stent delivery system of claim [29] 17, further including a plurality of openings formed along the length of the inner tubular member which allows fluid to flow from the guide wire lumen into the annular space formed

between the ~~inner tubular member and the~~ outer tubular member ~~and the restraining sheath~~ to evacuate air from the delivery catheter.

32. (Currently Amended) The stent delivery system of claim [29] 17, wherein ~~the~~ distal mounting region includes a plurality of openings formed therein for allowing fluid to pass from the guide wire lumen to the annular space formed between the inner tubular member and the restraining sheath.

33. (Previously Presented) The stent delivery system of claim 32, wherein the openings are formed as channels on the distal mounting region.

34. (New) A stent delivery system comprising:  
a delivery catheter having an inner tubular member with a proximal end and a distal end and a guide wire lumen extending from the proximal end to the distal end for receiving the guide wire, the tubular member including a region for mounting a compressed stent thereon with a tip assembly attached to the mounting region including a tip component having a tapered shape which facilitates the insertion and delivery of the delivery catheter in a patient's body vessel and an outer tubular member having a restraining sheath overlying a portion of said inner tubular member to maintain the stent in a compressed position, the outer tubular member and restraining sheath being adapted for axial movement with respect to said inner tubular member, the tip component being made from a polymeric material compounded with a radiopaque substance and a wire coil molded into the polymeric material; and

a housing assembly having a pull-back handle slidably mounted on a base, the inner tubular member having a proximal end attached to the base and the outer tubular member having a proximal end attached to the pull-back handle, wherein movement of the pull-back handle proximally retracts the restraining sheath proximally from the compressed stent on the inner tubular member while the inner tubular member remains stationary.

35. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 34, further including means for evacuating air from the delivery catheter.

36. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 34, wherein the tip component is made from poly-ether-block amide.

37. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 34, wherein the tip component is made from poly-ether-block amide which contains BaSO<sub>4</sub>.

38. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 34, wherein an annular space is formed between the outer tubular member and the inner tubular member and the delivery catheter further comprising an opening in the inner tubular member which is in fluid communication with the annular space and the guide wire lumen, wherein fluid may be introduced into the guide wire lumen through the opening in the inner tubular member so that the fluid is introduced into annular space and eventually flows through the distal end of the outer tubular member and a distal opening formed on the tip assembly.

39. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 34, further including a plurality of openings formed along the length of the inner tubular member which allows fluid to flow from the guide wire lumen into the annular space formed between the inner tubular member and the outer tubular member to evacuate air from the delivery catheter.

40. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 34, wherein the distal mounting region includes a plurality of openings formed therein for allowing fluid to pass from the guide wire lumen to the annular space formed between the inner tubular member and the restraining sheath.